



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 13 2011

OFFICE OF  
ENFORCEMENT AND  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

CDR R. Dempsey, USN  
Attn: SURTASS LFA Sonar EIS Program Manager  
4100 Fairfax Drive, Suite 730  
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Sir/Madam:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Navy's draft supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for the Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) Sonar (CEQ No. 20110269).

The Navy evaluated the potential environmental impacts of employing four SURTASS LFA sonar systems in oceanic areas. The draft supplemental EIS/OEIS provided additional information relating to the proposed action and considered additional mitigation measures, including the practicability of greater coastal standoff range where the continental shelf extends further than the current standoff range of 12 nautical miles, the designation of additional offshore biologically important areas, and further analysis of potential cumulative impacts with concurrent use of SURTASS LFA sonar with other active sonar sources.

Based on our review of the draft supplemental EIS/OEIS, we have rated the proposed action as LO – "Lack of Objections".

We appreciate the opportunity to review this draft supplemental EIS/OEIS, and look forward to reviewing the final supplemental EIS/OEIS related to this project. The staff contact for the review is Candi Schaedle and she can be reached at (202) 564-6121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan E. Bromm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Susan E. Bromm  
Director  
Office of Federal Activities